

THE REHEARSAL.

1. A Proclamation by Queen Elizabeth against Defamatory Libels upon the Church, &c.
2. The Dissenters no Changelings.
3. A Register made of the Most Scandalous Libels against the Church. And lately Recommended by little Calamy.
4. The Puritans Instrumental in the Spanish Invasion. Most Busy in time of War. The Method Q. Eliz. took with them. She Asserted the Bishops to be a Distinct Estate of Parliament.
5. The Puritans the Spawn of the Jesuits.
6. The Covenanters put themselves under the Protection of the French King, and Crav'd his Aid against K. Char. 1.

SATURDAY, February 2. 1703.

(1.) By the QUEEN

A Proclamation, against Certain Seditious and Schismatical Books and Libels, &c.

The Queens most Excellent Majesty, considering how within these few years past, and now of late, certain Seditious and Evil-disposed persons towards her Majesty, and the Government established for Causes Ecclesiastical within her Majesties Dominions, have Devised, Written, Printed, or caused to be seditiously and secretly Published and Dispersed, several Schismatical and Seditious Books, diffamatory Libels, and other Phanatical Writings, amongst her Majesties Subjects, containing in them Doctrin very Erroneous, and other Matters notoriously Untrue, and Slanderous to the State, and against the Godly Reformation of Religion and Government Ecclesiastical established by Law, and so quietly of long time continu'd, and also against the Persons of Bishops, and others placed in Authority Ecclesiastical under her Highness by her Authority, in railing, scolding, and beyond the Bounds of all good Humanity: All which Books, Libels and Writings, tend by their Scope to persuade and bring in a seditious and Apparent dangerous Innovation within her Dominions and Countries, of all Manner of Ecclesiastical Government now in Use, and to the Abridging, or rather to the Overthrow of her Highness Lawful Prerogative, allowed by Gods Law, and established by the Laws of the Realm; and consequently to Rebel, Dissolve, and set at Liberty the Present Government of the Church, and to make a dangerous Change of the Form of Doctrin, and Use of Divine Service of God, and the Administration of the Sacraments now also in Use, with a Rash and Malicious purpose also to Dissolve the Estate of the Prelacy, being One of the Three Ancient Estates of this Realm under her Highness, whereof her Majesty mindeth to have such a Reverend Regard, as to their Places in the Church and Commonwealth appertaineth. All which said Lewd and Seditious Practices do greatly tend to the manifest Wilful Breach of great number

of good Laws and Statutes of this Realm, Inconveniencies nothing regarded by such Innovations.

In consideration whereof, her Highness graciously minding to provide some good and speedy Remedy to withstand such notable, Dangerous and Ungodly Attempts, and for that purpose to have Enormous Malefactors discovered and Condignly Punished, doth signify this her Highness Disliking and Indignation of such Dangerous and Wicked Enterprizes; And for that purpose doth hereby Will and also straightly Charge and Command, That all Persons whatsoever, within her Majesties Realms and Dominions, who have, or hereafter shall have any of the said Seditious Books, Pamphlets, Libels, or Writings, or any of like Nature, Already Published, or hereafter to be Published, in his or their Custody, containing such Matters as above are mentioned, against the present Order and Government of the Church of England, or the Lawful Ministers thereof, or against the Rites and Ceremonies Used in the Church, and Allowed by the Laws of the Realm: That they and every of them do presently after, with convenient speed, bring in, and deliver up the same unto the Ordinary of the Diocese, or of the Place where they inhabit, to the intent that they may be Utterly Defaced by the said Ordinary, or otherwise used by them. And that from henceforth no Person or Persons whatsoever be so hardy as to Write, Contrive, Print, or cause to be Published or Distributed, or to keep any of the same, or any other Books, Libels, or Writings of like Nature and Quality, contrary to the true Meaning and Intent of this her Majesties Proclamation, And likewise, That no Man hereafter give any Instruction, Direction, Favour, or Assistance to the Contriving, Writing, Printing, Publishing or Dispersing of the same, or such-like Books, Libels, or Writings whatsoever, as they render her Majesties good Favour, will avoid her high Displeasure, and as they will answer the Contrary at their uttermost Perils; and upon such Pains and Penalties, as by the Law any way may be Inflicted upon the Offenders in any of these behalfs, as Persons maintaining such Seditious Actions, which her Majesty

mineth to have severely Executed. And if any Person have had Knowledge of the Authors, Writers, Printers or Dispersers thereof, which shall within One Month after the Publication hereof, Discover the same to the Ordinary of the Place where he had such Knowledge, or to any of her Majesty's Privy Council, the same Person shall not for his former Concealment be hereafter Molested or Troubled. Given at her Majesty's Palace at Westminster, the Thirteenth of February. 1588. in the One and Thirtieth Year of her Majesty's Reign.

God Save the Queen.

Printed at London by the Deputies of Christopher Barker, Printer to the Queens most Excellent Majesty. 1588.

Country-Man. What have we to do with this Old Proclamation of Queen Bess's?

(2.) Rehearsal. Only to shew you, Country-Man, the Method of our Dissenters from the Beginning. To Persecute the Church with False and Scandalous Pamphlets and Papers, that they may be render'd Contemptible to the People, who Cannot examine the Truth of things, and are too Apt to take Slander upon Trust. Of which that wise Queen saw the Mischievous Effects, and therefore put this Stop to it.

(3.) These Puritans made a Collection of the most Bitter and Venomous of their Libels against the Church, in Q. Elizabeth's time (for which one of their Preachers was Condemn'd to be Hang'd) and call'd it A Part of a Register (it seems they Intended more) And this is the first of the Books Recommended by young Calamy, at the End of his Preface to his late Abridgment of Mr. Baxter's Life. To shew that they Repent not to this Day.

(4.) You are to take Notice too, Country-man, that this Proclamation was in the year 1588. which was the year of the Spanish Invasion, when the Queen told the Parliament, by the Lord Chancellor Puckering, That these Puritans were worse than the Jesuits, and did join and concur with the JESUITS in opening the Door, and preparing the way to the SPANISH INVASION that is Threatened against the Realm. These are the words of the Speech, which we have in Print. So that we see the Time of War was their Harvest. Then their Paper-Bullets flew Thickest against the Church, because they thought her then in Danger. And then the Queen was most watchful to Guard against these Puritan-Jesuits, and stop their Licentious Libelling the Church. For she well knew, that if the minds of the People were once Turn'd against the Church, they wou'd not long Remain Firm to her Majesty. She made the Church's Interest the same with her own. She Preserv'd them. And they Preserv'd her. She Asserted the Lords Spiritual to be one, and Consequently the First of the three Estates, under her Majesty. And her Proclamation shows, That the Puritans Attack'd the Bishops in that Point, as they do Now. But I think they were not then Come to that Height as they are Now, to make the Crown itself one of the 3 Estates, and so to put the King (or Queen) upon the Level with their Subjects! Which our Observators and Reviewers have Openly Labour'd. And nothing the less for their being unanswerably Convinced! For tho' they have nothing

to Answer, they have still something to say, and Repeat it over and over again, with full Assurance!

Country-m. O, Master, you have Open'd my Eyes. I wish this Proclamation were Read in our Churches, the Sunday before every 30th. of January, as that of K. Char. 2. was last year. They shou'd have a Proclamation every year. They are Pure things! They are things of Authority! And we cannot Contradict them!

But Master; the Spaniards are the Most Bigotted Papists in the World. And these Puritans Rail'd against the Papists. Could they be then for the Spanish Invasion? And against so Good a Protestant Queen as Queen ELIZABETH!

(5.) Rehears. The first Puritans that open'd their Throat against Episcopacy, Liturgy, Rites and Ceremonies were Jesuits, and Manifestly so Detected in Q. Elizabeth's time, as Heath, Cummin &c. But they Rail'd against the Pope into the Bargain. To Delude the Common People, They made every thing in our Church to be Rank Popery, and the Rags of the Whore of Babylon! The Puritans were meer Tools to the Jesuits (as they are to this Day) from Them they learn'd the Deposing Doctrin and to set up the Private Spirit against the H. Scriptures, and all the Authority of the Church. This Q. Eliz. well Understood. And that these Jesuits in Masquerade were much more Dangerous than when they Appear'd in their own Shape. And therefore Involv'd both Puritans and Papists in the same Penal Laws made against Recusants.

(6.) Nor will you think it strange they shou'd Promote the Spanish Invasion, when you know that their Godly Sons the Covenanters in Scotland wrote to the French King, to put themselves under his Protection, and Desire his Assistance against K. Char. 1. Which you will see in Lord Clarendon's History, the 2d. Book. Vol. 1. p. 103. And the very Letter is Printed by Rushworth an Historian of their own side.

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